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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-03 AID-05 HEW-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /063 W

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O 292139Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2691

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

ALL CONSULATES MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1230

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, RP, MX

SUBJECT: GOM REACTION TO AMB MARSHALL GREEN'S MANILA SPEECH

REF: (A) MEXICO 1175

(B) MANILA 1486

(C) MANILA 1484

1. AS PER REFTTEL, THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN STRONG NEGATIVE OFFICIAL REACTION TO AMB GREEN'S MANILA STATEMENT AS REPORTED BY AP. GOM MINISTER OF INTERIOR MOYA PALENCIA, WHO IS ORDINARILY CALM AND CONTROLLED, TELEPHONED ME ON AFTERNOON OF JAN 28 IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF POPULATION COUNCIL, AND IN AN EMOTION-LADEN TONE LAMENTED REPORTS HE HAD READ OF AMB GREEN'S REMARKS ON MEXICAN POPULATION POLICY. MOYA INDICATED THAT HE HAD ALREADY BEEN SUMMONED TO EXPLAIN MATTER TO PRESIDENT. PRESS HAD IMMEDIATELY INTERPRETED STATEMENT AS USG INSISTENCE THAT MEXICO DEAL WITH THE POPULATION PROBLEM NOT FOR MEXICAN REASONS BUT BECAUSE OF U.S. FEAR OF INCREASE IN NUMBER OF BROWN-SKINNED IMMIGRANTS. MOYA HAD BEEN OBLIGED TO SPEAK TO THE PRESS, STRESSING THAT MEXICO'S POPULATION PROGRAM WAS ITS OWN, UNDERTAKEN AS EXPRESSION OF ITS SOVEREIGN DECISION AND FOR ITS OWN INTERESTS AND NOT REPEAT NOT AS

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RESULT OF OUTSIDE U.S. PRESSURE.

2. MOYA ADDED THAT HE AND OTHER GOM OFFICIALS HAD VERY COURTEOUSLY RECEIVED AMB GREEN DURING HIS NOVEMBER VISIT TO MEXOCI, OPENED THEIR BOOKS TO HIM -- AND WE KNOW THAT THIS IS SO -- AND THAT AMB GREEN HAD INDICATED HIS VERY POSITIVE IMPRESSION OF MEXICAN EFFORTS IN POPULATION PROGRAMS. IT THEREFORE SEEMED IMPROPER AND TOTALLY UNWARRANTED TO GOM TO BE URGED TO ACCELERATE ITS POPULATION PROGRAM APPARENTLY "FOR BENEFIT OF USA." WHILE IT WAS OF COURSE ADMISSABLE FOR U.S. TO STRESS PRIVATELY ITS INTEREST IN PROGRAM AND EFFECT OF MEXICO POPULATION PRESSURES ON U.S. INTERESTS, PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO THIS EFFECT WERE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE. MOYA STRESSED THAT GOM POPULATION PROGRAMS CAN ONLY FUNCTION IF THEY ARE REGARDED AS MEXCAN EFFORTS TO SOLVE MEXICAN PROBLEMS. MOYA COULD NOT INDICATE STRONGLY ENOUGH THE PREJUDICIAL NATURE OF SUCH PUBLIC REMARKS FROM A TOP-LEVEL USG OFFICIAL WHICH SERVED TO UNITE THE RIGHT-WING AND STRICT CATHOLICS ON ONE SIDE PLUS THE EXTREME LEFT-WING (WHO AS IN INDIA AND AFRICA PORTRAYED THIS AS A GENERAL IMPERIALIST REACTION AGAINST INCREASE OF NON-WHITE PEOPLES) IN OPPOSITION TO THE POPULATION PROGRAMS. I POINTED OUT THAT ACCORDING TO THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLES, AMB GREEN HAD MADE ONLY PERIPHERAL MENTION OF MEXICO AND THAT THE HEADLINES WERE THEREFORE EXAGGERATED; BUT MOYA NOTED THAT ONE MUST EXPECT THE PRESS TO BEHAVE THAT WAY.

3. ALSO OF EMBARRASSMENT TO GOM WERE AMB GREEN'S REPORTED COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. GOM HAS BEEN MAJOR LATIN AMERICAN ADVOCATE OF ARMS CONTROL AND IS CONCERNED THAT EVEN BY IMPLICATION ITS ARMS CONTROL CREDENTIALS MAY NOW COME INTO QUESTION ON BASIS CHARACTERIZATION AS A POTENTIAL ATOM BOBM THROWER BECAUSE OF A POPULATION PROBLEM.

4. FINALLY, MOYA NOTED THAT MEXICO ONLY THREE YEARS AGO WAS STILL OFFICIALLY OPPOSED TO FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS, AND THUS MIGHT HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO CRITICISM. SINCE THEN HOWEVER, MEXICO HAS ACCEPTED CONCEPT AND HE CONSIDERS THAT THEY HAVE MADE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS. MOYA STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT NO USG OFFICIAL EVER PUBLICLY MENTION THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE U.S. OF THE MEXICAN POPULATION PROBLEM, AS THIS MAY DETER

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FURTHER PROGRESS NOT ONLY HERE BUT IN LATIN AMERICA OR EVEN IN OTHER LESS WHITE COUNTRIES. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PAST THREE YEARS HAD SHOWN THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO ACCEPT U.S. COLLABORATION AND ADVICE BUT ONLY SO LONG AS GIVEN ON A DISCREET BASIS.

5. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA PHONED ME HIMSELF TO MENTION THAT PRESS TREATMENT OF THE GREEN REMARKS HAD MADE IT NECESSARY

FOR GOM TO REPLY THROUGH MOYA, BUT ASSURING THAT REPLY WOULD BE IN A COURTEOUS AND ELEVATED, EVEN IF FIRM TONE.

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED ORIGINAL AP TEXTS (REF C) WHICH WERE APPARENTLY COMBINED INTO ONE ARTICLE BY MEXICAN PRESS, THEREBY CONFUSING NUCLEAR ISSUE WITH REFERENCE TO MEXICO. EVEN IF INACCURATE, AP STORY ALREADY MAY HAVE DAMAGED MEXICAN POPULATION PROGRAMS AND OUR ABILITY TO SUPPORT THEM.

7. THIS INCIDENT AGAIN POINTS UP EXTREME IMPORTANCE OF POPULATION ISSUE IN US-MEXICAN RELATIONS. WE MUST TREAT THIS MATTER WITH UTMOST DELICACY, TRYING AS WE HAVE IN RECENT YEARS TO PROVIDE SUCH ASSISTANCE AS REQUESTED BUT BEING CAREFUL TO GO NO FURTHER AND ABOVE ALL NOT TO APPEAR RACIST OR TO BE URGING MEXICAN POPULATION CONTROL TO AVOID PROBLEMS FOR U.S. IF WE CANNOT FOLLOW THIS POLICY PROPERLY, MORE DAMAGE THAN GOOD WILL BE DONE TO US INTERESTS IN MEXICAN POPULATION POLICY. JOVA

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